

Statement on the Korean War Incident at No Gun Ri *January 11, 2001*

On behalf of the United States of America, I deeply regret that Korean civilians lost their lives at No Gun Ri in late July 1950. The intensive, yearlong investigation into this incident has served as a painful reminder of the tragedies of war and the scars they leave behind on people and on nations.

Although we have been unable to determine precisely the events that occurred at No Gun Ri, the U.S. and South Korean Governments have concluded in the Statement of Mutual Understanding that an unconfirmed number of innocent Korean refugees were killed or injured there. To those Koreans who lost loved ones at No Gun Ri, I offer my condolences. Many Americans have experienced the anguish of innocent casualties of war. We understand and sympathize with the sense of loss and sorrow that remains even after a half a century has

passed. I sincerely hope that the memorial the United States will construct to these and all other innocent Korean civilians killed during the war will bring a measure of solace and closure. The commemorative scholarship fund that we will launch will serve as a living tribute to their memory.

As we honor those civilians who fell victim to this conflict, let us not forget that pain is not the only legacy of the Korean war. American and Korean veterans fought shoulder to shoulder in the harshest of conditions for the cause of freedom, and they prevailed. The vibrancy of democracy in the Republic of Korea, the strong alliance between our two countries, and the closeness of our two peoples today is a testament to the sacrifices made by both of our nations 50 years ago.

Remarks at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts *January 11, 2001*

Thank you. Those are the AmeriCorps rowdies over there. Thank you very much.

Well, President Freeland, let me begin by saying I'm delighted to be back at Northeastern. I remember so well when I spoke here to your commencement early in my term. I remember the honorary degree I got. Now that I have to make a living, maybe I can put it to some use. *[Laughter]* I remember the young man who spoke there, representing the students, all the students whose hands I shook and whose stories I heard. This is a great American urban institution of opportunity, and I am honored to be back. I thank you for that.

Mayor Menino, Mr. Mayor, I thank you for being my friend and for proving that the ideas that Al Gore and I brought to the American people in 1992 and 1996 would work anywhere because you made them work in Boston. Whether it was the economy, crime, welfare, education, you did it.

You might be interested to know, Mr. Mayor, we're still borrowing from Boston. Just last week

we announced that we're going to give Federal employees the same benefit you have given to Boston city workers, time off for medical screenings to catch cancer and other problems early on. Thank you again, Mr. Mayor.

And to your Representative, Mr. Capuano, I have never heard you give such a vigorous public speech in my life. *[Laughter]* And you even talked about things I'd forgotten I'd done. *[Laughter]* But your congressional district and this State have been wonderful to me. And you have been great, and I thank you. And I thank you for what you've done for them in Congress. And I want to thank Bill Delahunt, who has been so great on many issues but who's been particularly helpful in pushing our criminal justice agenda in the United States Congress, giving us the lowest crime rate in America in 25 years.

And I want to thank Jim McGovern for many things, but I think everyone in Massachusetts should know that Congressman McGovern was the number one advocate in Congress for one